

I thank Alexander Guzhov (Moscow) for pointing out to me the work by Kasum-Zade (2003).

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**Comment on the proposed conservation of *Obovaria Rafinesque, 1819 (Mollusca, Bivalvia)* by the designation of *Unio retusa Lamarck, 1819* as the type species (Case 3353; see BZN 63: 226–230)**

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I am writing in support of the conservation of the current usage of *Obovaria*. As pointed out in the application, the current usage has held over the past 150 years. One minor correction is that Herrmannsen's designation of a type for *Obovaria* is in volume 2 (1849), not volume 1 (1847).

Additionally, no replacement name is available. Although two names are treated as junior subjective synonyms in the current literature, neither actually applies. The type species of *Pseudoon* Simpson, 1900 is *Unio ellipsis* Lea, 1828, a subjective synonym of *Amblyma olivaria* Rafinesque, 1820. Currently this species is listed as *Obovaria olivaria*. However, recent molecular data suggest that *O. olivaria* is closely related to, but not the sister taxon of, the other species currently assigned to *Obovaria* (see Campbell et al., 2005). This requires further sampling and analysis to confirm, but it does suggest that the differences noticed by Simpson (1900) may be of greater significance than currently realized. No molecular data exist for the nearly extinct *O. retusa* (Lamarck, 1819), the proposed type of *Obovaria*. However, Ortmann (1911) and Simpson (1900, 1914) reported its anatomy as matching other species assigned to the genus (except *O. olivaria*) for which molecular data are available.

*Rotundaria* Rafinesque, 1820, like *Obovaria*, has led to confusion due to overlooked type designations. Agassiz (1852) selected *Obliquaria tuberculata* Rafinesque, 1820 (currently *Cyclonaias tuberculata*) as the type of *Rotundaria*, and this was followed by most workers until Ortmann & Walker (1922) pointed out that

Herrmannsen (1849) had designated *Obliquaria subrotunda* Rafinesque, 1820 (currently *Obovaria subrotunda*) as the type species. They established the new genus *Cyclonaias* for *Obliquaria tuberculata*. It is surprising that Ortmann & Walker (1922) cite Herrmannsen's type designation for *Rotundaria* but not his designation for *Obovaria* (pp. 407, 132 in the same volume). However, in this case, Herrmannsen was not the first to select a type. Valenciennes (1827) reported *Obliquaria tuberculata* specimens from Rafinesque, which he says were identified as the type of a new genus, *Rotundaria*. Thus, *Rotundaria* is a senior objective synonym of *Cyclonaias*. *Cyclonaias tuberculata* occurs phylogenetically within *Quadrula* as currently used (Campbell et al., 2005; the result of Serb et al., 2003, reflects a mixing of tissue clips with *Potamilus alatus*) and so *Rotundaria* is not available for species currently placed in *Obovaria*.

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**Comments on the proposed conservation of the specific name of *Hydroporus discretus* Fairmaire & Brisout de Barneville, 1859 (Insecta, Coleoptera)**  
(Case 3337; see BZN **64**: 87–89)

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The proposed application to have *Hydroporus neuter* placed on the Official Index of Rejected Names in Zoology has my fullest support. It is wrong that the application to conserve *H. discretus* was rejected, and appears quite outside the norm in recent cases. I gather that the application was rejected because it attracted insufficient favourable comment. My own view is that it appeared such an overwhelmingly compelling case that comment was superfluous. I very much hope that this second attempt succeeds. It would be wrong to lose such a well-known and well-established name as *Hydroporus discretus*, which must be conserved.